3: Roberts S-4 (no date)1951 EDI Rumania EDI

241
311

TABLE XXVIII. PERCENTAGE OF LAND DEVOTED TO DIFFERENT CROPS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF PROPERTY, 1938

	Size of Property (hectares)						
	0.1–1	*1–3*	*3–5*	*5–10*	*10–25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
Cereals	51.37	62.61	64.61	72.94	73.14	80.42	66.05
Alimentary plants	4.21	3.89	3.17	2.27	2.75	2.40	2.75
Intercropped plants	2.44	2.36	1.86	1.14	0.86	0.90	1.35
Forage crops	4.27	6.88	7.58	5.00	3.97	3.06	5.08
Industrial plants	1.13	1.77	2.44	1.94	1.29	1.44	1.78
Fallow	0.90	1.77	2.38	2.46	1.90	0.71	1.90
Natural meadow	10.38	7.90	5.86	3.42	3.12	7.62	5.11
Pasture	0.25	1.09	1.87	1.87	1.70	2.22	1.78
Orchards	3.50	1.73	1.19	0.77	0.76	0.53	1.00
Vineyards	10.29	4.61	3.91	3.43	2.99	0.79	3.22
Forests	5.60	3.88	3.61	2.67	3.96	25.49	7.19
Barren	0.13	0.39	0.23	0.26	0.49	0.52	0.42
Not utilized	3.16	1.53	2.02	1.83	3.07	3.96	2.47

SOURCE: 69 *Sate romînești*, II, 97.

COMMENT: These figures were reached through a sampling investigation of some 60 villages.

243

TABLE XXIX. PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL GRAINS

	Output in 1,000 Quintals				Area Covered
	Wheat	*Maize*	*Barley*	*Oats*	
1921–25	24,277	35,618	12,068	8,116	71 *judeje*, frontiers as of January, 1938
1926–30	30,138	48,071	18,189	11,047	
1931–35	26,288	53,972	12,122	6,552	
1936	35,051	56,120	16,119	8,471	
1937	38,088	46,560	9,468	5,158	
1938	48,194	52,521	8,292	4,606	
1935–39	25,960	39,020	8,500	4,010	40 *judeje*, frontiers as of January, 1941
1940	15,758	37,422	4,962	3,707	
1941	19,903	36,472	8,911	3,390	
1942	8,549	21,516	2,228	3,073	
1943	20,297	23,268	5,165	4,236	
1944	26,529	32,649	3,921	3,502	
1945	10,985	12,128	2,441	2,384	
1945	12,745	18,186	3,578	3,567	88 *judeje*, postwar frontiers
1946	16,097	10,940	2,584	2,822	

SOURCES: *Statistica agricolă a Romîniei în 1939*, p. xvii; *Statistica agricolă a Romîniei în 1941–1944*, p. xiii; *Expunere de motive la bugetul general al statului* (Bucarest, 1946, 1947).

3: Roberts S-4 (no date)1951 EDI Rumania EDI

TABLE XXX. WHEAT AND MAIZE YIELDS, 1892–1946 243

Yield in Quintals per Hectare

	Old Kingdom		Rumania	
	Wheat	*Maize*	*Wheat*	*Maize*
1891–95	10.9	9.7		
1896–1900	8.9	9.6		
1901–1905	12.5	8.8		
1906–1910	11.3	11.6		
1911	12.5	14.1		
1912	11.9	12.3		
1913	14.1	14.2		
1914	6.0	12.2		
1915	12.8	10.9		
1921	10.1	8.5	8.6	8.1
1922	10.2	9.0	9.5	8.9
1923	10.7	12.3	10.3	11.3
1924	6.8	10.9	8.1	10.9
1925	9.5	11.1	8.6	10.5
1926	8.5	12.3	9.1	14.4
1927	8.4	7.4	8.5	8.4
1928	9.1	5.6	9.3	6.2
1929	8.5	12.4	9.9	12.3
1930	12.5	10.3	11.6	10.2
1931	12.4	13.1	10.6	12.7
1932	5.2	12.1	5.1	12.5
1933	9.3	9.3	10.4	9.4
1934	6.2	9.1	6.7	9.6
1935	7.2	11.0	7.6	10.4
1936	10.0	9.9	10.2	10.7
1937	10.3	8.1	10.7	9.6
1938	13.4	8.6	12.5	10.4
1939			11.7	13.7
1940			6.4	10.4
1941			8.7	10.9
1942			5.5	6.5
1943			10.7	7.9
1944			11.4	12.3
1945			5.7	5.0
1946			5.9	2.9

SOURCES: *Statistica agricolă a României în 1938*, pp. 41, 96; Traian Săvulescu, *Problema alimentării populației* (Bucarest, 1947), Annex 1.

4:Fleure S-5 (no date)1936 EDl Rumania EDl

III.—NOTES ON THE VEGETATION OF ROUMANIA

137 AFTER a voyage of five days down the Danube where hundreds of miles of its banks were clothed with willows (*Salix cinerea*) and formed our almost sole glimpse of vegetation, the first thing the Vegetation Group did on landing at Giurgiu was to make contact with the flora of Roumania. A walk along the side of the railway parallel to the river revealed the following species: *Xanthium speciosum*, *Trifolium fragiferum*, *T. lappaceum* (an alien possibly transported by rail or ship), *Setaria glauca*, *Datura stramonium*, *Berteroa incana*, *Trigonella procumbens*, *Althaea officinalis*, *Inula brittanica*, *Hibiscus trionum*, *Salvia sylvestris*, *Glycyrrhiza echinatum*, *Amaranthus albus* and many others less worthy of note and mostly belonging to the mid-European element.

DURING our visit to Snagov, where we enjoyed the kind hospitality of the Mayor of Bucureşti (Bukarest), we saw large quantities of *Vallisneria spiralis* growing close to the banks of the lake. Near the old monastery church the following plants were noted: *Xanthium strumarium*, *Astragalus acer*, *Galega officinalis*, *Chenopodium ficifolium*, *Filago arvensis*, *Nepeta pannonica*, etc.

243 BOTH on our way from Giurgiu to Bucureşti by train, and by the roadside on leaving the capital towards Ploeşti, we were reminded of the fact that the maize was the staple crop and it was here seen in the plains growing to perfection in striking contrast to that seen later around Borsec in the narrow valley towards Corbu.

OUR next contact with vegetation was during the motor drive over elevated ground from Sinaia to Dobreşti; here the grass had not been cut in the sub-alpine meadows and the flora was seen to be a very rich one, but time did not permit of its being examined. From Dobreşti, a climb via a fine gorge was made to the alpine Peştera hut. On our way up the gorge large masses of the tall, yellow *Inula helenium* were passed and *Achillea Schurii* (endemic to the Carpathians) was seen on the wet walls of rock, and also *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*. As more elevated ground was

VI.—ECONOMIC ROUMANIA

AGRICULTURE.

311 162 MODERN ROUMANIA is essentially an agricultural state, as was the Old Kingdom (43 to 46 per cent of the land being arable and 22 per cent forest, whilst over 80 per cent of the population of 18 millions are agricultural workers), although it has valuable potentialities for the development of industry.

132 24 134 ARRANGED in zones round the bastion of the southern and eastern Carpathian highlands, the main agricultural regions of post-war Roumania exhibit, according to aspect and altitude, a considerable variety of climatic conditions, which is reflected in a varying emphasis in the selection of crops raised. In general, we may say that the continental nature of the climate and the resulting succession from north to south and from highland to lowland of soils, graded from poor ashen-grey podsol in the Carpathians through oak-forest loams to a rich chernoziom in the south-eastern Danube plains, has resulted, wherever the ground is sufficiently level, in a concentration on grain production. The heavier rainfall of the uplands, the relatively great humidity and shelter from the driving winds that sweep across the open plains, coupled with the exposure of less [137] fertile rocks—granites and coarse sandstones—explains the large area of forested land (24.5 per cent, nearly 7½ million hectares) in those districts that extend into the Carpathian highlands.

243 OF THE 13 odd million hectares of arable land, cereals occupy some 37 to 39 per cent. Production varies greatly from year to year and from district to district. In the old kingdom of Wallachia-Moldavia, maize is by far the heaviest crop, particularly in Oltenia, where the summer rainfall is heavier. It is also the heaviest crop in Transylvania, the cultivated areas under maize, wheat, barley and oats being [262] respectively 4, 3, 2 and 1 million hectares. Maize is the staple crop of the peasant holder almost throughout the country, for it not only provides the bread, cakes and the "mamaliga," maize pudding, the main food of the mass of the people, but also fodder for the cattle to eke out the hay in

243
372]

the winter; moreover, the annual life of this cereal is short, freeing the ground for other uses. In the plains, the maize stalks are used for fuel. The proportion of land devoted to maize has therefore increased since the agrarian reforms and the expropriation of much of the land of the large landowners.

THIS CONCENTRATION on maize production by the peasant farmer has its dangers, besides handicapping the country from the point of view of export. In a succession of dry summers a poor maize crop has a disastrous result where there are no root crops and no winter wheat to fall back on. The cultivation of potatoes and lucerne is being encouraged, but peasant farming is backward throughout the kingdom, though less so in Transylvania and the Bucovina than in the Old Kingdom.

THE MOST intensive maize cultivation is found in the departments of Gorj and Valcea and Muşcel in Oltenia (the sheltered valleys of foothill country of Oltenia) and that of Bacau in the upper Trotuş basin of Moldavia. In these districts, where the annual rainfall is in the neighbourhood of 600 mm., with an early summer rain maximum and a dry autumn, over 50 per cent of the agricultural land cultivated is under maize; but, with the exception of the Black Sea coastlands, the bulk of Roumania has only between 30 and 50 per cent of the cultivable land under cultivation devoted to maize. True, in the higher valleys of the Carpathians, the maize not infrequently fails to ripen, owing to the early onset of cool weather, but early ripening species of maize are sown in the Carpathian valleys. Again, a dry spring and early summer is a grave menace to the crop. It is unfortunate that the least nourishing and latest ripening type of maize is, owing to its high yield, that most favoured by the Vlachian peasant.

WHEAT.

IT IS only in Transylvania that wheat assumes a rôle approaching in importance in the peasant agricultural régime to that of maize. It was being cultivated, however, before the War on an increasing scale, on the large estates of Muntenia, where the steppe type of climate and rich soil conditions (chernoziom on loess and the black and brown

243 soils of the oak forest) prevail, and where the low rainfall is inimical to maize cultivation. Wheat is an important crop also on the well-drained soils of the Tertiary loess-covered plateau, on which chernoziom also develops, between the Prut and Siret. Here, below 1,000 feet, wheat is extensively grown, for here again the climate approximates to the steppe type. Grain began to be exported from the Danube plain depression in appreciable quantities only in 1833, the year of the great Russian famine, but in thirty years it had taken the place of grazing land and meadow over all the Black Earth region. The breaking up of the large estates, however, and the unsettled conditions during and since the War have checked the development of large-scale wheat production for export. After the War, the production of grain of all sorts fell off heavily as a result partly of a heavy tax imposed on grain export, partly of uneconomic farming due to the subdivision of estates, partly of the Government's taking over the marketing of wheat and rye and fixing prices for those commodities—a policy which discouraged production of these crops by the peasants, who concentrated on the production of maize, with barley and oats for home consumption in the wetter highlands. In any case, the yield of wheat in regions of steppe climate varies enormously from year to year with the winter and spring precipitation, and even during the period of normal progress in the decade preceding the War the export varied between nearly 2 million tons and less than 200,000. In spite of the rich soils, the yield per acre is small judged by western European standards.

BARLEY does very well as a peasant fodder crop in the dry south-east of the Old Kingdom, and is a crop of some importance in Transylvania (1½ to 2 million hectares). In Moldavia and Oltenia under moister conditions, the high starch content makes it useful for brewing, and it is grown mainly on the larger estates.

248 HEMP AND FLAX are grown, the latter decreasingly, by the peasants for use in domestic textile industry. Imported cotton yarn has largely taken the place of linen.

245 As regards the vine—the best grapes for wine are produced in small holdings in the hill country of Transylvania (chiefly produced by the Saxon communities), Wallachia and

241
423 only three and a half. But 80 per cent of the registered large holdings were farmed in small parcels by peasants who paid rent largely in kind or in services to absentee landlords or large tenant holders, mainly Jews, to whom the land had been farmed out. Such an arrangement often meant a considerable return to the landowner or direct farmer at the
213 expense of the peasant labourer. On the large holdings wheat was the main crop, only about 14 per cent of the maize in Old Roumania being grown on large holdings. There are a number of reasons for this. First, more capital is required for the cultivation of wheat; wheat seed grain costs ten times as much as maize for an equal area; then, in the higher lands, where the smaller holdings are to be found, the heavier rainfall and shorter growing period is more conducive to maize cultivation than to that of wheat. Again, the traditional staple food of the peasant is the easily prepared "mamaliga" or maize pudding, and the difficulty of persuading a peasant people to change their habits of life is well known, also the heavy animal fodder provided by maize is an important consideration for the peasant. And lastly, where the maintenance of life is dependent on an adequate winter store, the peasant is more concerned with securing that tangible store than with providing a cash crop with which to acquire luxuries. The large farmer, on the other hand, was mainly concerned in producing a surplus crop of wheat for export.

423 Between 1916 and 1926 a great redistribution of land in the interest of the peasants took place both in Old Roumania and in the newly-acquired territories. Such a redistribution in a land with important ethnical minorities has naturally given rise to much discontent among the dispossessed landlords and as naturally forms the basis of much political discussion and unrest and endless propaganda by all parties. But we are only concerned here with the economic results of the redistribution.

423 It must be recognised that the change from large- to small-
241 scale farming, however advantageous to the peasant against whom the scales had always been weighted in the past, means a change in the character of the land cultivation, and though farming methods even on the large farms cannot be said to have been very enlightened, a certain amount of

132 being common at this height (440 metres and upwards). July and August are the hottest months.

THE MEAN annual rainfall for Curtea de Argeş (taken over a period of nine years) is 672 mm. Precipitation occurs all the year round, but the rainiest months are May and June.

243 THE PRINCIPAL crop is maize, from which not only is the staple food "mamaliga" made, but the stems and leaves are used for animal fodder and bedding. Oats and rye are grown for fodder on the larger farms only. Wheat is not grown in the region. Soil and climate are suitable, but at present the peasant possesses very little machinery; harvesting would have to be done with a sickle or scythe and threshing with a flail. It is easier to buy such wheat as is required from the Wallachian Plain.

244 IN ADDITION to the above, every farm, however small, grows various vegetable crops: pumpkins for fodder, tomatoes, paprika, potatoes, onions, runner beans, cabbages, aubergines, often amongst the maize, sometimes as ground crops in the orchards.

246 CULTIVATED FODDER crops are grown only on the larger farms, and consist of clover, lucerne and sometimes a mixture of vetch and oats, and very occasionally turnips.

THE LOWER slopes of the hills form the natural hay meadows of the commune, but occasionally the grass of the orchard is used as rough pasture.

248 HEMP IS grown on the low-lying farms, usually as a boundary crop for the maize. Flax is also grown, but very few sunflowers.

245 AN IMPORTANT aspect of agriculture around Curtea de Argeş is fruit cultivation. Apples, pears and plums are the main crops, with occasional cherries. Every farm, however small, has some fruit trees, sometimes scattered over the whole holding, but more usually in a small orchard. Sufficient apples are grown to allow a considerable export trade to Bucharest. Plums are used for the manufacture of the alcoholic drink tuica in Curtea de Argeş. Recently plum-drying has been tried, and is already being taken up successfully by the more enterprising peasants. Walnuts also are gathered and sold.

refineries did not exceed 1.65 lei per kg. The total consumption of sugar, averaging 100,000,000 kgs. per annum, would thus yield a net profit of 165 million lei, which represented a return of 5 per cent on the invested capital. The cultivation of beet-sugar was reported to be considerably more profitable to the peasant than wheat, for while one hectare sown with wheat yielded 1,200 kgs., which would fetch 2,700 lei, one hectare sown with sugar-beet produced 20,000 kgs., which was bought by the refineries for 16,000 lei.

Though the actual production of cereals surpasses that of the pre-war period, the quantity exported shows a considerable diminution. Transylvania and Bucovina do not produce enough grain for their needs, and cover their requirements by imports. The relative values of the various cereals, as well as the quantities available for export from the 1929 harvest and those consumed locally or used for seed, are given below:

Crop	Total interior consumption in quintals.	Quantities available for export in quintals.	Total production in quintals.	Total value in million lei.
Wheat	25,600,000	2,400,000	28,000,000	19,600
Rye	2,100,000	1,300,000	3,400,000	2,049
Oats	8,000,000	5,600,000	13,600,000	5,169
Barley	7,600,000	22,800,000	30,400,000	12,768
Maize	34,000,000	26,800,000	60,800,000	30,400
Total	77,300,000	58,900,000	136,200,000	69,975

Of the available quantity for export only about half was shipped, viz., 28,000,000 quintals, while from the harvest of 1930 the quantity exported was 29,500,000 quintals.

The harvests of the last three years were abundant, and their respective yields in quantity differed but little. Owing, however, to the catastrophic fall in prices, the sums at which they were marketed varied considerably.

	Total production of all cerials.	Total estimated value in lei.
1929	136,200,000 quintals	69,975,000,000
1930	121,100,000 ,,	28,905,000,000
1931	124,800,000 ,,	24,311,000,000

RUMANIA

243 The following were the average prices of the principal cereals at the port of Constantsa per ton during the years 1928–1931, according to the bulletin of the Constantsa Chamber of Commerce:

	1928	1929	1930	1931
Barley ...	5,900	4,580	2,430	1,800
Oats ...	3,400	2,440	1,800	1,520
Maize ...	5,280	4,010	2,600	1,800
Wheat ...	5,280	4,010	2,600	2,550

241 433 If it be remembered that the value of the agricultural production of Rumania constitutes about 60 to 65 per cent of the whole national revenue, it is easy to realize what a terrible strain such a sudden and brusque diminution in the resources of the country is likely to throw on the entire structure of its economic and social life. For the period of 1926–28 the national revenue was computed at 171 milliard lei, of which 110 milliards were derived from agriculture. According to the *Argus* of February 13th, 1932, this last figure for 1931 had declined to 46.5 milliards.

245 Among the 613,614 hectares occupied by orchards and vineyards, some 209,321 hectares are planted with plum trees which yield an annual average crop of about 5 million quintals of fruit, the yields for the years 1928–30 being respectively 28, 9.5, and 14.6 quintals per hectare. The vine is also very extensively cultivated, 239,825 hectares being planted with it. In 1930 the amount of wine obtained from the grapes grown attained about 8,385,374 hectoliters, about half of which was produced in Bessarabia.

241 231 The position of the livestock population in a country of small farmsteads like Rumania is liable to exert a great influence on agriculture, for not only are horses and horned cattle used as draught animals, but their manure is the only kind of fertiliser applied to the fields, so that the gradual reconstitution of the livestock situation after the serious damages inflicted on it during the war is a reassuring sign. The recovery would have been much more rapid if the export taxes on cattle and meat had not discouraged the cattle breeders by unduly restraining exports. The following

241 however, be slightly deficient in grain, especially in poor years.
133

[311] The hilly land of Transylvania and the Bucovina differs markedly from the plain. There is proportionately less arable and much more meadow, grazing and forest land. The soil is poor. Methods are not as primitive as in the plain land of the Old Kingdom, but over-crowding is more serious and output per head is consequently lower. Parts of this region are slightly deficient in grain. Though [146] the level of food consumption is low, the dietary is more varied than elsewhere in the country, less maize and more meat and dairy produce being eaten.

3. Crops

311 Of the total area of pre-war Rumania, of nearly 30 million hectares (119,000 sq. miles) and twice the area of England and Wales), about 13 million hectares, or 45 per cent. was arable. Permanent meadow, pasture and grazing occupied 14 per cent., while tree and bush crops accounted for a further 2 per cent. The remaining land was non-agricultural, forest and waste land.

●243 A very high proportion of the arable—over 80 per cent.—was used for grain growing, principally maize, wheat and barley. Owing to low rainfall, use of poor seed and lack of fertilisers, yields were at a low level and fluctuated widely from year to year.

[439] Out of an average grain production of 11 million tons, 6 millions went into domestic human consumption and 1½ million were exported, the remainder going to fodder, seed and waste. Grain exports have always figured largely in the country's foreign trade. During the twenty years 1920 to 1939 they only once fell below a million tons, and in some years exceeded three million tons. In value, during the decade before the war, they formed, after petroleum products, the main item in exports.

241 No other category of crops compares with grain. Sown fodder crops took barely 5 per cent. of the arable, all other crops, including potatoes, fibres, oilseeds, tobacco and sugar beet, about 8 per cent. Peas, beans and oilseeds were grown in sufficient quantities to provide surpluses for export. Germany established two companies—Solagra in 1934 and Soya A.G. in 1940—which invested large sums in promoting oilseed cultivation. The area 249 under sunflower was raised only slightly, but that under soya rose from nil in 1933 to 103,000 ha. (254,000 acres) in 1939, but the greater part of both crops was located in Bessarabia which Rumania lost to the U.S.S.R. in 1940 (see below).

244 Production of potatoes, vegetables and sugar
247 beet was just sufficient for domestic consumption, but the tobacco crop did not quite meet requirements. Tobacco production had fallen from 20,000 tons in the late nineteen-twenties to 12,000 tons in the years just prior to the war.

245 Fruit production was undeveloped and there was little organised marketing and processing. Plums were the main crop, but three-quarters of the output was used for making brandy. Apples and other kinds of fruit, and walnuts, were produced in fair quantities, but exports were insignificant, and, owing to low quality and the lack of standardisation, there were no prospects of development.

CHAPTER 1

228 in private waters. Supplemented by some 4,000 tons of imported fish, this provided nearly 1 kg. (2·2 lb.) per head of population, but, in fact, almost all the fish was consumed by the 5 million persons living in towns. The principal fish caught were sturgeon, carp, pike, eels and crayfish, the main fishing centres being Brăila, Tulcea and Ismail.

6. Food Industries

256 The chief food and agricultural-processing industries are milling, sugar manufacture, oilseed crushing and tobacco curing. While the milling industry was dispersed widely about the country in more than 15,000 small mills employing altogether over 37,000 persons (at 1930 census), the sugar industry was for the most part concentrated in the plain of the Old Kingdom. Of the 17 sugar 257 factories employing 10,000 workers, only one was in the Transylvanian districts lost to Hungary and five in the areas temporarily lost to the U.S.S.R. 258 The vegetable-oil industry, located chiefly in Bessarabia, was only partly carried on in factories, of which there were (on January 1st, 1939) 117, employing 2,026 workers. Among these, 34 were fitted both to extract crude oil and to refine it, six were exclusively refineries, while the remainder produced only crude oil. The rest of the industry consisted of some 2,000 hand, or animal-driven presses mostly owned by individual peasants or by shopkeepers. These primitive presses extracted only a low percentage of oil from the seeds, and consequently the cake—mainly sold for export—had an unusually high oil content. As regards 277 tobacco, both curing and cigarette manufacture [656] were subject to government licence and control. There were 29 factories (in 1930) employing 9,720 workers, but tobacco cultivation subsequently declined, so also doubtless did the numbers employed.

7. Agricultural Organisation

452 The history of the organisation of Rumanian 241 farmers is one of not too successful co-operatives 474 becoming transformed more and more into agencies for the execution of Government Control Schemes. [654] For many years there had been throughout the country a network of agricultural credit societies, co-operative in form but in practice directed by the State. These played an important rôle during the period of the Land Reform in helping the peasants by advances to buy and equip their newly acquired holdings. There was even some co-operative cultivation for a time, until the new peasant-owners could muster sufficient draught animals and implements. Besides this, there have been strong local co-operative unions especially among the [162] minority nationalities—the Hungarians in Transylvania, the Swabian and Saxons in the Banat and the Russian and Polish Jews in the Bucovina.

243 The credit societies revived in importance when, 474 after 1933, the Rumanian Government began the 452 organisation of grain marketing. They became 654 the local agents of a Central Marketing Board through which all sales of grain had to be made both for home consumption and for export. Whereas formerly grain prices slumped immediately after the harvest, most peasants, being obliged to sell their grain quickly, under the new scheme prices were stabilised throughout the year, and this brought a great improvement to peasants' [651] receipts. But the scheme and the societies were also used to collect the peasants' taxes (paid in grain) which did not increase the popularity of co-operation.

241 722 lar, for grain, oilseeds and livestock products to provide the balance of food and fodder requirements which she could not obtain from her own agriculture. The normal grain surpluses and the potential output of sunflower and other oilseeds appeared sufficiently large to provide a solid basis for these expectations. Owing, however, to wartime dislocations of economic life, to the absence of adequate administrative control of farming, to the lack of co-operation by the peasants, and, above all, to a succession of unfavourable seasons, these hopes have been almost entirely falsified.

Firstly, in 1940, Rumania lost Bessarabia, her principal surplus region, to the U.S.S.R., and with it all that year's crops. When she regained it in 1941 she obtained no surplus out of that harvest, and, because of disorganisation, little in 1942. In rump Rumania, in 1940 and 1941, the grain harvests were substantially below the average owing to reduced sowings (partly caused by mobilisation) and to disappointing yields. A determined effort was made by propaganda and the release of labour to bring sowings back to normal for the 1942 season. But the early onset of an unusually severe winter again reduced the sowings, while a serious drought in the summer of 1942 reduced the yields.

722 [243] There was a deficiency in wheat sowings of over a million hectares, while grain yields were barely 60 per cent. of the average. The out-turn of the year was consequently worse than that of the two preceding years. Wheat and rye yielded only 1·3 million tons compared with an average for the territory of 3·6 million tons. The maize crop was a little less than 3 million tons compared with an average of 4·7 million tons. The total grain production was about 5·5 million tons, a quantity inadequate to meet the requirements of food and fodder at any approach to normal levels.

[241] Other crops were more successful in 1942, but they could not appreciably offset the disastrous grain results. The potato crop reached an average level for the first time during the war years, and part of it was used to stretch the deficient wheat for bread making. There was also a good crop of beans and peas, largely because, as their prices were not controlled, they were very remunerative crops. The sunflower crop, though sowings failed to reach the ambitious target and yields were only 60 per cent. of normal, was of record dimensions. Soya, rape and sugar beet declined, however, from earlier levels. (A significant supplementary supply of sugar is now being obtained from Transnistria.)

[231] These for the most part poor crop results, besides curtailing the supplies available for human consumption and exports, also brought about a reduction in livestock numbers at the end of 1942. Livestock numbers may, however, have increased somewhat in 1940 and 1941, for it was reported that peasants held back more grain than usual in those years for livestock feeding. If this is true, numbers would now probably be little different from those of pre-war years.

[241] Crop prospects for 1943 point to a more normal result. The winter of 1942-43 was late and mild, making it possible to sow a near-average acreage of winter crops. Preparatory work for spring sowings was also done in good time, and on the whole the weather subsequently has not been unfavourable.

722 249 Tobacco cultivation appears to have declined in the war years, principally because the prices were even more unattractive than those of grain. In 1942 the area sown was reported to be little

CHAPTER I

722 more than half the normal, but the efforts in 1943
[249] to recover to a more average crop may have succeeded.

3. Fish

[208] The general food shortage in Rumania gave a great fillip to the fishing industry. In the 12 months April 1942 to March 1943, some 40,000 tons of fish were caught in State waters besides 13,000 tons in rented and private waters. This is almost double the largest pre-war catch. During 1942 some 6,000 tons were salted down for winter use. In order to promote and introduce better organisation into the fishing industry a German-Rumanian Company has been established, the "Marea-Neagrâ," which will devote special attention to developing the Black Sea fisheries.

4. Agricultural Exports

439 The pre-war level of grain exports was well
243 maintained in 1939; wheat in particular was prominent with over a million tons. The exports of 1940, however, showed an immediate reflection of territorial changes and war shortages. Total grain exports in that year barely reached a million tons compared with the pre-war average of about 1·6 million tons. The following year showed a still sharper decline, wheat reaching only 5,000 tons and maize 120,000 tons. In 1942, despite the recovery of Bessarabia, it is most unlikely that even this level was maintained.

439 Oilseed exports, despite direct German interven-
249 tion aiming at an expansion of the crop, also fell below pre-war levels. Sunflower-seed exports, the principal oilseed, fell from an average of 30,000 tons in 1935-38 to 12,000 tons in 1940 and to 5,000 tons in 1941. Exports following the 1942 crop, though probably better, were not at all commensurate with the increased production, for a serious shortage of edible oil and fat had meanwhile developed in Rumania owing to decreased supplies of pig fat and to the retention by the peasants of their seed for consumption at home, or for disposal on the Black Market.

5. Administrative Control

241 Not even the most complete and efficient system
656 of administrative control could have assured the
435 country's food supplies and exports at normal levels during these three unfavourable years, but it is clear that Rumania's food difficulties have been aggravated by mistakes in economic policy and inadequate control measures. Bureaucratic methods of handling the peasants aroused antagonism and resistance. Supplies of tested seed and other farm requisites were not made available in time. On the collection and supply side, too much power was left in the hands of local prefects. But the most serious shortcoming of the official administration was the failure to establish a price control, and an appropriate relationship between agricultural prices and the cost of the things farmers buy. (In the absence of effective discipline this ratio needs to be strongly in the producers' favour if production and marketing of foodstuffs is to be maintained.) Prices of consumers' goods rose rapidly, owing to shortages, while the Government pegged the prices of farm produce at comparatively low levels. Consequently, the peasants curtailed production and sought better prices by selling much of their produce through Black Market channels. The mistake was officially admitted in the autumn of 1941 when grain prices were more than doubled, but the position still remained unfavourable to